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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 10, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 8, 2018, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

THANKING MY SOUTH FLORIDA CONSTITUENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, though I still have a few days left before the end of my term, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the constituents for allowing me to represent them in the U.S. House of Representatives for so many years.

Whether it has been helping a veteran obtain the VA assistance he or she

needs, or fighting for our Dreamers, or securing funds for important projects in our community, or passing critical legislation to help those oppressed by totalitarian regimes, or one of the many, many other duties that the people of south Florida have entrusted to me, I have been honored to serve them in this distinguished body for almost 30 years, and I have played a small part in making our slice of paradise an even better place in which to live.

Every day when I come to this floor, when I walk these hallowed Halls, or when I look at that magnificent Capitol dome lit up, I pinch myself to make sure that I am not dreaming.

That is because as a political refugee, I have a unique perspective on the greatness of our Nation. America opened its arms to my family and to me as we fled the Communist Castro regime. When we arrived in Miami, it was in one of the last commercial flights out of Cuba. I was only 8 years old.

So to think that I have been elected to serve in the U.S. Congress, that I became the first Hispanic woman to serve in Congress and the first woman to chair the House Foreign Affairs Committee, it is simply astounding, not because it is about me but it says a lot about the greatest democracy that man has ever created: the United States of America.

We are a country that says: You can be successful no matter where you started, and that is something that we do not ever take for granted in my south Florida community where it seems like almost everyone seems to be from somewhere else. My constituents are also a testament to the endless possibilities that all of us have as free Americans.

Mr. Speaker, where I was born is not just a place listed on my passport. It has defined how I view the world through the prism of democracy, of freedom, of the rule of law, and of

human rights. These are fundamental American principles that have guided my legislative record.

I have been honored to fight for equal rights for all people by joining efforts that will put an end to the discrimination and the violence against individuals based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

I have been proud to advocate for the natural allies of our country, like the democratic Jewish State of Israel, her right to exist, and her right to defend herself; to secure support for a free trade agreement with Colombia, one of our biggest trading partners in Latin America; and to promote U.S. assistance that allows Taiwan to resist Beijing's increasing coercion. I have also worked to promote religious autonomy for the people of Tibet who are also victims of Chinese aggression; and to reestablish democracy and the rule of law in my native homeland of Cuba, in Nicaragua, in Venezuela, in Syria, and in so many other countries; and to sanction rogue regimes like that in Iran, in Russia, in North Korea, and all those who wish to do us harm.

Domestic issues have been priorities for me as well, Mr. Speaker. Growing up in south Florida, I learned to appreciate the wonderful natural resources all around us, and I have made it my priority to protect those treasures so that future generations are also able to enjoy them.

I have worked to re-nourish our beautiful south Florida beaches, to restore the seagrass beds and coral reefs, to provide for advanced wastewater treatment in our beloved Florida Keys, and to reinvigorate our Miami River. Throughout my tenure I have represented Miami International Airport and Port Miami, two of the largest economic engines to our county that serve as the gateway to the Americas and support thousands of jobs and economic development across our Sunshine State.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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